

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 31 MAY 51

SUBJECT Government Exploitation of the land

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1. Farmers are under instruction from the Albanian Government as to how they should exploit their land, and what seeds to sow. At harvest-time, if the land-owner is unable to return to the State the amount fixed by the authorities, or is unable to carry out their orders, his land is confiscated by the State and he and his family are sent to forced labor camps.*
2. In 1950 there was a severe drought in Albania, as a result of which many land-owners, unable to carry out the orders of the State Planning Commission, and unable to produce their quota, asked the Planning Commission to consider them not as land-owners, but as laborers working on land owned by the State. They have in fact renounced their ownership of the land and have left the State to bear the responsibility of farming it.
3. In August 1950 a law against tardiness among workers was introduced. Late arrivals are punished by having to work from three to seven days without pay for each five minutes that they are late. Habitual offenders are punished by the Workers' Tribunal, by three months' hard labor in prison. In Durres there were cases of workmen who were condemned to three months' imprisonment for being ten minutes late at work.

Comment: In this connection, another report has recorded the case of an Albanian farmer, who in 1946 owned 150 stremmata of land (ca. 40 acres), 500 olive trees, an oil mill, as well as an area of winter pasture which gave him an annual income of 30 gold sovereigns; following the nationalization of his property in April 1946, he was left with only 10 stremmata (ca. 2½ acres).

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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